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by slight modifications thereof, I cite the following list: cosmos, centaurea, aster, alyssum, ageratum, dahlia, canna, petunia, portulaca, primula (primrose), salvia, verbenia, zinnia, impatiens, rosa (rose), gaillardia, heliotropium (heliotrope), lobelia, lilium (lily), magnolia, hyacinthus, chrysanthemum, anemone, oxalis, wistaria, clematis, iris, spirea, pæonia (peony), forsythia, phlox, gladiolus, begonia, asparagus, arbutus, coreopsis, smilax, trillium, viola (violet), geranium, fuchsia, tulipa (tulip), catalpa.

The suggestion that a species of *Erechtites* be called white fireweed and one of *Epilobium* be purple fireweed shows the absurdity of trying to standardize local names, for there are white species of *Epilobium*. I am sure that it is easier for school children to learn this scientific name qualified by white or purple.

There are some interesting popular confusions of scientific terms, *e. g.*, syringa is a popular name but unfortunately has become attached to mock orange (*Philadelphus*) instead of correctly to lilac, which as an English name has been applied to various kinds of shrubs.

M. A. BIGELOW

QUOTATIONS

TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATES IN WAR TIME

ONE of the first effects of the entry of America into the war has been the volunteering of the graduating classes, nearly en masse, throughout the country, into national defense service, with a considerable number of enlistments also in junior classes. This dedication of our trained youth for the maintenance of justice against brute-strength aggression is an admirable thing, and no one who believes in the ideals of young men will oppose it. It is important to remember, however, that injudicious dedication to the world's good may actually do the world harm, and well-intended action may by over-haste defeat its own purpose.

War is a vast country-wide engineering enterprise. Theoretically speaking, an all-wise and powerful board of experts should de-

termine where each man and woman should be posted in the great war chain of fighters, for it is obvious that all specially trained men, and particularly all technically trained men, should keep at the posts where their training is needed. It was an inevitable mistake made by our allies at an earlier stage in the war which led many young physicians, engineers, mechanics and valuable specialists to rush as volunteers for the front. It may overtax human intelligence to decide whether any particular man of military age is more needed at the front or at the rear. Mistakes must occur, and many of them; but the technically trained men should be kept at their profession unless there happens to be a superfluity of them. So long as there are earnestness and determination to serve, they also serve who only stand and wait. The junior men in colleges, and particularly in technical or medical colleges, will probably serve their country better by working hard at their educational preparation than by abandoning their college work before their training is completed. In general, however, every day's work done in any sort of productive employment contributes to the war and therefore hastens the end of the war. To do any useful thing hard is to fight for the Allies.—*The Electrical World*.

DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS

THE fact can scarcely be reiterated too frequently that the government should extend patronage to scientific investigations and mechanical inventions. Such a step is necessary to promote the arts and industries as well as to safeguard the nation in war. The United States can no longer proceed on a policy of bungling and neglect. Even the Naval Consulting Board is inadequate to the needs of the present emergency. The ability of its individual members is high, but the number of problems to which the board can give its attention is limited by the restricted membership.

The problems taken up by these most competent experts are undoubtedly the most urgent, but even on these particular problems